

Application No.: 09/974,593

Docket No.: JCLA8091

**In The Claims**

Please amend claims as follows.

1. (currently amended) A recording medium loading apparatus capable of loading a disc-shaped recording medium, comprising:

a carrier for transferring the disc-shaped recording medium between a first position to insert/remove the disc-shaped recording medium and a second position to perform a reproducing and/or recording process; and

a holding device installed on the carrier for holding an outer circumference of the disc-shaped recording medium,

wherein the holding device is in contact with top and bottom portions of the outer circumference of the disc-shaped recording medium by clamping the outer circumference of the disc-shaped recording medium from the top and the bottom, and clamps a portion in an insertion direction from a central-front portion of the disc-shaped recording medium with respect to an the insertion direction, and -

wherein at least when the carrier starts moving from the first position to the second position, the holding device holds the portion in the insertion direction from the central-front portion of the disc-shaped recording medium, and does not hold a portion of the disc-shaped recording medium in an eject direction.

2. (previously presented) A recording medium loading apparatus capable of loading a disc-shaped recording medium, comprising:

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a carrier for transferring the disc-shaped recording medium between a first position to insert/remove the disc-shaped recording medium and a second position to perform a reproducing and/or recording process; and

a holding device installed on the carrier for holding an outer circumference of the disc-shaped recording medium, the holding device comprising:

a fixing portion fixed to the carrier,

a plurality of tongue pieces, being in contact with the disc-shaped recording medium to actuate a force, and

an elastic portion, located between the fixing portion and the tongue pieces, the elasticity of the elastic portion enabling the tongue pieces to actuate an elastic force on the disc-shaped recording medium when the disc-shaped recording medium is held by the holding device,

wherein the holding device is in contact with top and bottom portions of the outer circumference of the disc-shaped recording medium by clamping the outer circumference of the disc-shaped recording medium from the top and the bottom, and clamps a central-front portion of the disc-shaped recording medium with respect to an insertion direction.

3. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the tongues pieces gradually close to the disc-shaped recording medium with respect to the insertion direction and then contact the outer circumference of the disc-shaped recording medium.

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4. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the holding device further comprises a disc detecting switch for detecting the loading of the disc-shaped recording medium by means of being in contact with the outer circumference of the disc-shaped recording medium,

the disc detecting switch comprising:

a body of the detecting switch, installed on the carrier,

driving pieces to drive the detecting switch, installed so as to be able to move relatively to the body and to be in contact with the outer circumference of the disc-shaped recording medium, and

a spring installed between the body and the driving pieces, pressing toward the disc-shaped recording medium that is inserted to the driving pieces,

wherein the fixing portion of the holding device is the body of the detecting switch, the tongue pieces of the holding device is the driving pieces of the detecting switch, and the elastic portion of the holding device is the spring of the detecting switch.

5. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, comprising a disc detecting switch, installed on the carrier for detecting the loading of the disc-shaped recording medium by means of being in contact with the outer circumference of the disc-shaped recording medium.

6. (currently amended) A recording medium loading apparatus capable of loading a disc-shaped recording medium, comprising:

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a carrier for transferring the disc-shaped recording medium between a first position to insert/remove the disc-shaped recording medium and a second position to perform a reproducing and/or recording process; and

a holding device installed on the carrier for holding an outer circumference of the disc-shaped recording medium,

wherein the holding device is in contact with top and bottom portions of the outer circumference of the disc-shaped recording medium by clamping the outer circumference of the disc-shaped recording medium from the top and the bottom, and clamps a front end in an insertion direction from a central-front portion of the disc-shaped recording medium with respect to an the insertion direction, -

The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the holding device is capable of selectively and accurately holding a first disc-shaped recording medium with a first diameter, and a second disc-shaped recording medium with a diameter smaller than the first diameter, and-

wherein at least when the carrier starts moving from the first position to the second position, the holding device holds the front end in the insertion direction from the central-front portion of the disc-shaped recording medium, and does not hold a portion of the disc-shaped recording medium in an eject direction.

7. (previously presented) A recording medium loading apparatus capable of loading a disc-shaped recording medium, comprising:

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a carrier for transferring the disc-shaped recording medium between a first position to insert/remove the disc-shaped recording medium and a second position to perform a reproducing and/or recording process, the carrier comprising a cartridge engaging member for engaging with a disc cartridge moveably arranged on the carrier for loading the disc-shaped recording medium, and selectively transferring the disc-shaped recording medium not loaded in the disc cartridge and the disc-shaped recording medium loaded in the disc cartridge; and

a holding device installed on the carrier for holding an outer circumference of the disc-shaped recording medium,

wherein the holding device is in contact with top and bottom portions of the outer circumference of the disc-shaped recording medium by clamping the outer circumference of the disc-shaped recording medium from the top and the bottom, and clamps a central-front portion of the disc-shaped recording medium with respect to an insertion direction.